

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 7133

EXDIS USSALTTWO

E O 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJ: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF AUGUST 19, 1977
(SALT TWO - 1361)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV
AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 1977:

QUOTE

SEMENOV STATEMENT, AUGUST 19, 1977

THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT THE DELEGATIONS HAVE AT THEIR DISPOSAL
REFLECTS AGREEMENT OF THE SIDES TO THE EFFECT THAT THE AGREE-
MENT BEING WORKED OUT MUST RECORD THE OVERALL MAXIMUM LEVELS
FOR STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, ESTABLISHED BY THE VLADISVOSTOK
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S. --2,400 AND 1,320.

THIS IS WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE III,
PAR. 1, ON LIMITING STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES TO AN AGGREGATE
NUMBER NOT TO EXCEED 2,400, AS WELL AS IN THOSE OF ARTICLE V,
PAR. 1, ON LIMITING STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS EQUIPPED WITH
MIRVS TO AN AGGREGATE NUMBER NOT TO EXCEED 1,320.

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INCLUSION OF THESE PROVISIONS IN THE NEW AGREEMENT IS
OF IMPORTANCE IN PRINCIPLE IN TERMS OF PRACTICAL EMBODIMENT
THEREIN OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL
SECURITY, AND IN TERMS OF CONSOLIDATING THE BALANCE IN THE
LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, WHICH WAS RECORDED
IN THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN

VLADIVOSTOK.

AS REPEATEDLY SAID IN STATEMENTS BY L.I. BREZHNEV, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE USSR, THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT REGARD THE LIMITATIONS AGREED UPON IN VLADIVOSTOK AS SOMETHING RIGID, FIXED FOR ALL TIME. THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT ON THE BASIS OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN IN VLADIVOSTOK AND AT SUBSEQUENT SOVIET-AMERICAN MEETINGS IS TO BECOME THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR SUBSEQUENTLY PROCEEDING--AND WITHOUT DELAY--TO NEGOTIATIONS ON MORE FAR-REACHING MEASURES IN THIS AREA.

THE USSR DELEGATION HAS TO REAFFIRM THAT THE SOVIET SIDE IS PREPARED, IMMEDIATELY AFTER ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT NOW, TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS ON REDUCING THE LEVELS OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREED PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XV OF THE JOINT DRAFT.

OF COURSE, FURTHER PROGRESS ON THE BASIS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT TOWARD MUTUAL ARMS REDUCTION MUST BE MADE IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY, WHICH PRECLUDES OBTAINING UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE.

AS YOU KNOW, THE QUESTION OF SOME REDUCTION OF THE OVERALL AGGREGATE LEVEL OF STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES
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ALREADY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE TALKS BETWEEN A.A. GROMYKO, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE USSR, AND CYRUS VANCE, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE U.S., IN GENEVA IN MAY 1977. MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON THIS SCORE WAS ACHIEVED.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 7133
EXDIS USSALTTWO

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS, THE SOVIET SIDE HAS STATED
HERE THAT IN RECORDING THE 2,400 AND 1,320 AGGREGATE
NUMERICAL LEVELS IN THE DRAFT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT BEING
WORKED OUT AND ON CONDITION OF APPROPRIATE RESOLUTION OF
THE OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS, IT IS PREPARED TO INCLUDE IN THE
NEW AGREEMENT A PROVISION TO THE EFFECT THAT AFTER 1980
THE AGGREGATE LEVELS OF DELIVERY VEHICLES BE LOWERED BY
150, I.E., FROM 2,400 TO 2,250. IN PRACTICE THIS REDUCTION
WOULD BE CARRIED OUT OVER A PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS, BEGINNING
JANUARY 1, 1981.

THE PROPOSALS OF THE USSR DELEGATION ARE REFLECTED IN
THE WORDING FOR THE CORRESPONDING OBLIGATIONS OF THE SIDES
IN ARTICLES III AND XI OF THE DRAFT. SPECIFIC PROCEDURES
ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH REDUCTION WOULD BE WORKED OUT IN THE
STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE
XVII, SUB PAR. 2 (E).

I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS MOST EMPHATICALLY THAT THE
PROPOSAL ADVANCED BY THE SOVIET SIDE REGARDING THE SIZE
AND TIMING OF THE REDUCTION OF THE OVERALL AGGREGATE LEVEL
OF STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES IS THE RESULT OF THOROUGH AND
BALANCED ANALYSIS OF ALL RELEVANT QUESTIONS AND ENSUES FROM
THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS HELD BETWEEN THE USSR
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AND THE U.S. THE SOVIET PROPOSAL IS DICTATED BY THE INTERESTS
OF CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRESS AT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IS WHOLLY
BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY,
AGREED BETWEEN THE SIDES.

THE QUESTION OF MORE EXTENSIVE REDUCTIONS OF THE AGGREGATE
LEVEL OF STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES WILL BE THE SUBJECT
OF FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, AND WOULD REQUIRE APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL
CONSIDERATION AND AN ACCOUNT FOR ALL THE FACTORS
DETERMINING THE STRATEGIC SITUATION SO AS TO ENSURE STRATEGIC
STABILITY AND EQUAL SECURITY OF THE SIDES.

IN REAFFIRMING ITS PROPOSAL ON REDUCTION OF THE AGGREGATE
LEVEL OF STRATEGIC DELIVERY VEHICLES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF
THE NEW AGREEMENT, THE USSR DELEGATION PROCEEDS FROM THE
PREMISE THAT OUR STATEMENT TODAY WILL BE CONSIDERED TO BE

THE POSITION OF THE SOVIET UNION. UNQUOTE EARLE

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